

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A color wheel is disclosed that has at least one segment that occupies, for a given radius, a percentage of the circumference of the wheel at that radius, which percentage varies continuously or in multiple steps from a radially inward point to a radially outer point on the wheel. In one embodiment, the color wheel has a plurality of filter segments adjacent each other around the circumference of the wheel, wherein at least one of the transitions from one filter segment to the next is curved or stepped.

A color wheel also is disclosed that has a plurality of filter segments adjacent each other around the circumference of the wheel, wherein at least one of the segments is a higher brightness segment than the others and has sides facing adjacent filter segments that do not lie on the radius of the wheel. A projection system is also disclosed that has a light source, a unique color wheel, a spatial light modulator, and projection optics.